IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 7F to correct the reference number therein from "706" to "707". No new matter is being added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Applicants will address each of the Examiner's objections and rejections in the order in which they appear in the Final Rejection.

Drawings

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner objects to the (formal) drawings as "706" is used in both Figs. 7E and 7F to designate different layers. Applicants are amending Fig. 7F to change "706" to "707" (which is consistent with the informal drawings as filed). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner also objects to Claim 6 for an informality therein. Applicants have amended Claim 6 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The Examiner also continues to reject Claims 1-10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30-32 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over "applicant's admitted prior art in combination with Chen U.S. Patent No. 5,453,406." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicants traverse this rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants are amending independent Claims 1-7, 10, 31, 33, 149, 161 and 173 to recite the step of forming an electro luminescence layer over the pixel electrode, and amending independent Claim 8 to recite the step of forming a cathode (see e.g. page 21, lns. 11-12 of the

present application for support thereof). It is respectfully submitted that as amended, these claims are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

More specifically, "applicant's admitted prior art" does not disclose or suggest a passivation film (or insulating film) directly formed on, covering a surface of or deposited on, the wiring, as recited in the independent claims of the present application. Chen does not disclose or suggest a step of forming a semiconductor film or a pixel electrode. Further, neither reference, even if properly combinable (which Applicants do not admit), discloses or suggests forming an electro luminescence layer, as recited in the independent claims of the present application. Accordingly, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Further, the claimed method of a combination of steps including forming a leveling film containing a siloxane structure and an electro luminescence (EL) layer is advantageous over the prior art, and is not disclosed by the cited references. For example, a relatively high temperature can be applied to a leveling film containing a siloxane structure as a baking process as compared to using an acryl resin film, which is commonly used as a leveling film. Hence, the degassing of a leveling film containing a siloxane structure is less than that of an acryl resin film. Since an EL layer is easily damaged by moisture and oxygen, a method requiring less degassing prolongs the EL layer and results in higher reliability of the display device. Another advantage of the claimed method is that transmittance of a leveling film containing a siloxane structure is higher than that of an acryl resin film. Therefore, the loss of light is smaller for a device resulting from such a method and having a leveling film containing a siloxane structure where the light emitted from the EL layer is filtered out from the leveling film.

These advantages that accrue to the present invention - -and not known in the prior art- - must be considered by the Examiner. (See, In re Piasecki, 223 USPQ 785, 787 (Fed. Cir. 1984) "all evidence on the question of obviousness must be considered"). Applicant respectfully submits that

when these advantages are properly considered, the Examiner's prima facie case of obviousness is rebutted.

Furthermore, the present invention as claimed is directed to a method of fabricating a display device by forming a pixel electrode and forming an EL layer. When forming an EL display device, the flat surface of the organic leveling film is advantageous to prevent breaking of the EL layer since the EL layer is usually very thin (e.g. 50 nm or so). The claimed method of the present application is suitable for fabricating a display device having an EL layer. Chen, however, does not teach or suggest a fabrication method for such a display device, the claims of the present application are patentable thereover.

Applicants are also amending claims 37, 46, 55, 64, 73, 82, 91, 101, 111, 121, 131, 141, 152, 164, and 176 so that they are consistent with the specification at e.g. page 16 lines 1-3. This feature is also not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection now be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance.

If any fee should be due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark J. Murphy
Registration No. 34,225

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, Ltd.
200 West Adams Street, Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 236-8500

Customer no. 000026568

Annotated Sheet

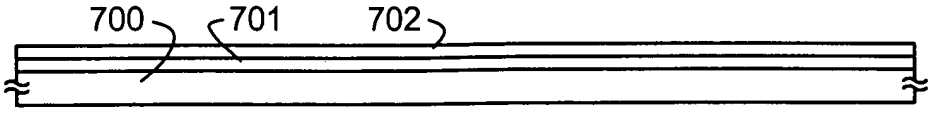

FIG. 7A

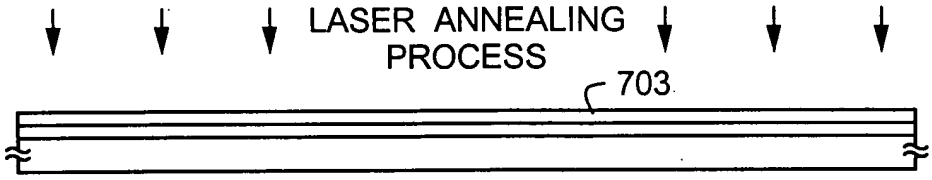

FIG. 7B

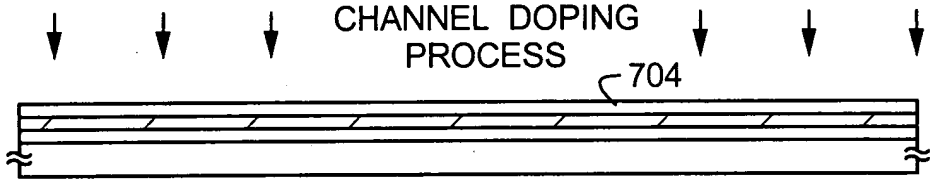

FIG. 7C

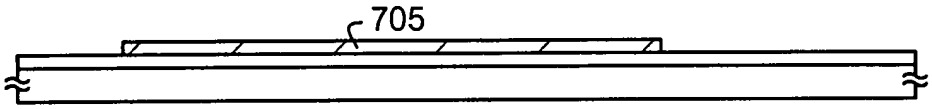

FIG. 7D

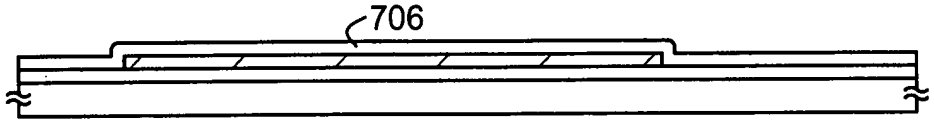

FIG. 7E

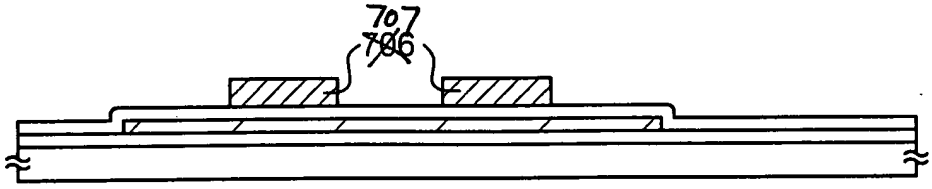

FIG. 7F

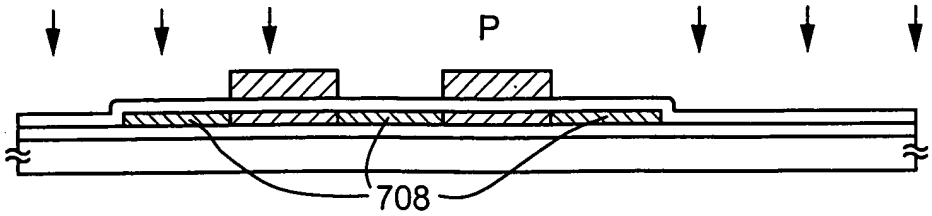

FIG. 7G